

REMARKS

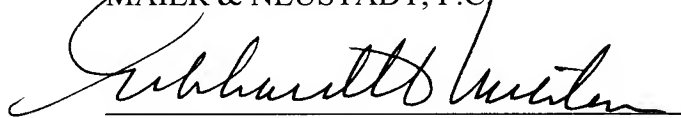
Entry of the present amendment before examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are currently active in this case. The above preliminary amendment cancels Claims 16-18 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation or a divisional application with subject matter as recited in cancelled Claims 16-18.

Accordingly, an examination on the merits of Claims 1-15 is believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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